

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Accordingly, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. **If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues, or believes that some or all of the claims are not in condition for allowance, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a telephone Examiner Interview before any further actions on the merits.**

The applicants will now address each of the issues raised in the outstanding Office Action.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection in view of the clarifying amendments presented above.

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 5, 6, and 8 because they referred to a previously recited act using a label applied to the act. These claims have been amended to recite the language of the previously recited act rather than the labels applied to the act. Accordingly, this

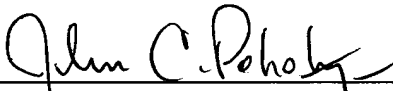
ground of rejection should be withdrawn since these claims now clearly comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112. Since claim 3 was apparently rejected solely due to its dependence from claim 2, this ground of rejection should also be withdrawn from claim 3.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicants request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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John C. Pokotylo, Attorney
Reg. No. 36,242
Tel.: (732) 542-9070

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING under 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on **March 24, 2004** with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



John C. Pokotylo

36,242
Reg. No.